

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 22

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2002 Regular Session
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By: **Senators Stone, DeGrange, Bromwell, Green, Jimeno, Sfikas, Della,
Kelley, Dorman, Blount, Collins, Hoffman, Hughes, and Mitchell**

Introduced and read first time: March 4, 2002

Assigned to: Rules

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **The Domestic Steel Industry**

3 FOR the purpose of urging President Bush to take swift action on certain
4 recommendations of the United States International Trade Commission
5 regarding the domestic steel industry.

6 WHEREAS, The steel industry has long been an important industry in
7 Maryland and is vital to the economy of the United States; and

8 WHEREAS, In recent years, the steel industry has been hit with a rise in
9 bankruptcy filings among domestic producers, plummeting steel and stock prices,
10 falling employment, and increased foreign control of the industry; and

11 WHEREAS, Since the industry crisis began in 1998, 28 steel companies with
12 over 60,000 employees have filed for bankruptcy; and

13 WHEREAS, In recent years the steel industry has also been suffering because
14 of increased importation of steel and iron ore products into the United States and the
15 increased costs for retiree health care due to downsizing and restructuring of the
16 industry during the 1980s; and

17 WHEREAS, It is of utmost importance that action be taken quickly to help the
18 domestic steel industry recover and that such action provide for the relief,
19 consolidation, and rebuilding of the American steel industry; and

20 WHEREAS, Any action taken should include the creation of a
21 government-sponsored program that would provide relief from the industry's burden
22 of retiree legacy costs, which are primarily pension and retiree health care costs,
23 thereby removing the most significant barrier to consolidation of a highly fragmented
24 industry; and

25 WHEREAS, It is vital that the steel industry be protected to maintain
26 thousands of American jobs; now, therefore, be it

27 **RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the**
28 Maryland General Assembly urge the President of the United States to take swift

1 action to implement a tariff rate of 40% for 4 years on the full range of products where
2 injury has been found by the United States International Trade Commission and as
3 recommended by the Commission for remedy; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly urge the President to take any
5 additional steps that are necessary to rebuild a strong and globally competitive
6 United States steel industry; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
8 Legislative Services to the President of the United States, George W. Bush; Vice
9 President Richard B. Cheney; the Maryland Congressional Delegation: Senators Paul
10 S. Sarbanes and Barbara A. Mikulski, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.
11 20510; and Representatives Wayne T. Gilchrest, Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Benjamin L.
12 Cardin, Albert R. Wynn, Steny Hamilton Hoyer, Roscoe G. Bartlett, Elijah E.
13 Cummings, and Constance A. Morella, House Office Building, Washington, D.C.
14 20515; the Honorable Parris N. Glendening, Governor of Maryland; the Honorable
15 Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and the Honorable
16 Casper R. Taylor, Jr., Speaker of the House of Delegates.